IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Please cancel claims 1-4, 6-8, 13 and 17 without prejudice, and amend claims 5, 9 and 14-16 as follows.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

1-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The vector of claim 1 wherein second promoter is~~ A vector for amplifying a toxic gene in bacteria comprising:

an origin of replication;

a first promoter;

a polylinker;

a lac promoter in reverse orientation with respect to said first promoter;

a polyadenylation signal; and

a nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding a selectable marker;

wherein said lac promoter is capable of producing an antisense molecule directed to said toxic gene when said toxic gene is inserted into said polylinker of said vector.

6-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The vector of claim 1 further comprising~~ A vector for amplifying a toxic gene in bacteria comprising:

an origin of replication;

a first promoter;

a polylinker;

a nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding a toxic protein, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is inserted within said polylinker and is operably connected to said first promoter;

a second promoter in reverse orientation with respect to said first promoter;

a polyadenylation signal; and

a nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding a selectable marker;

wherein said second promoter is capable of producing an antisense molecule directed to said nucleic acid molecule encoding a toxic protein.

10. (Original) The vector of claim 9 wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes a bacterial toxin or a viral toxin.

11. (Original) The vector of claim 10 wherein said viral toxin is HIV-1 *env*.

12. (Original) The vector of claim 10 wherein said bacterial toxin is selected from the group consisting of Pseudomonas exotoxin A, cholera toxin, diphtheria toxin, *E. coli* toxins, botulinum toxin, anthrax toxin, pertussis toxin, shiga toxin, ricin, tetanus toxin, and Staphylococcal toxins.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Currently Amended) ~~The host cell of claim 13 wherein said cell is a~~ A bacteria cell comprising a vector for amplifying a toxic gene in said cell, said vector comprising:

an origin of replication;

a first promoter;

a polylinker;

a second promoter in reverse orientation with respect to said first promoter;

a polyadenylation signal; and

a nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding a selectable marker;

wherein said second promoter is capable of producing an antisense molecule directed to said toxic gene when said toxic gene is inserted into said polylinker of said vector.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~The host cell of claim 13 wherein said cell is a~~ A mammalian cell comprising a vector for amplifying a toxic gene in said cell, said vector comprising:

an origin of replication;

a first promoter;

a polylinker;

a second promoter in reverse orientation with respect to said first promoter;

a polyadenylation signal; and

a nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding a selectable marker;

wherein said second promoter is capable of producing an antisense molecule directed to said toxic gene when said toxic gene is inserted into said polylinker of said vector.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of amplifying a toxic gene in bacteria comprising the steps:

providing a vector of claim ~~1~~ 9;

~~inserting the nucleic acid molecule encoding said toxic gene into the polylinker of said vector;~~

inserting said vector comprising said toxic gene into said bacteria; and

amplifying said vector in said bacteria.

17. (Canceled)